

**To:** Acevedo, Janie[Acevedo.Janie@epa.gov]  
**From:** Assunto, Carmen  
**Sent:** Wed 8/12/2015 4:40:46 PM  
**Subject:** FW: Gold Mine Spill, News Digest, Wednesday, Aug 12  
GKM Digest 08122015.pdf

**From:** Hubbard, Joseph  
**Sent:** Wednesday, August 12, 2015 9:58 AM  
**To:** Curry, Ron; Coleman, Sam; Ruiz, Thomas; Gray, David; Taheri, Diane; Honker, William; Garcia, David; Edlund, Carl; Phillips, Pam; Crossland, Ronnie; Webster, Susan; Petersen, Chris; Atkins, Blake; Hayes, Mark; Mason, Steve; Acevedo, Janie; Assunto, Carmen  
**Cc:** Bokun, Lisa; Durant, Jennah; Vela, Austin; Martindale, Cary; Weber, Gina; Fanning, Cynthia; Fitch, Bruce  
**Subject:** Gold Mine Spill, News Digest, Wednesday, Aug 12

### **1 — EPA ‘absolutely, deeply sorry’ for mine spill, Albuquerque Journal, 8/12/2015**

<http://www.abqjournal.com/627002/news/epa-apologizes-takes-responsibility-for-mine-spill.html>

The top U.S. Environmental Protection Agency official apologized Tuesday on behalf of her department for spilling 3 million gallons of mining sludge that fouled the Animas and San Juan rivers, saying the spill “pains me to no end.” Gina McCarthy made the comments after federal and contract workers accidentally unleashed the spill Aug. 5 while inspecting the abandoned Gold King mine near Silverton, Colo.

### **2 — EPA officials promise analysis of river contamination today, Daily Times, 8/11/2015**

[http://www.daily-times.com/four\\_corners-news/ci\\_28625135/epa-officials-promise-analysis-river-contamination-wednesday](http://www.daily-times.com/four_corners-news/ci_28625135/epa-officials-promise-analysis-river-contamination-wednesday)

EPA officials offered little new information Tuesday afternoon on pollution levels in the Animas River after agency workers accidentally released an estimated 3 million gallons of mine wastewater contaminated with heavy metals into the river a week ago.

### **3 EPA Chief Apologizes For Huge Colorado Mine Spill, HuffPost, 8/11/2015**

[http://www.huffingtonpost.com/entry/epa-colorado-mine\\_55ca70c9e4b0f73b20bb08a3](http://www.huffingtonpost.com/entry/epa-colorado-mine_55ca70c9e4b0f73b20bb08a3)

The head of the Environmental Protection Agency was remorseful Tuesday after an EPA safety team accidentally caused 3 million gallons of wastewater to spill from an abandoned mine in Colorado, turning a major waterway a bilious yellow hue. "This is a tragic and unfortunate incident, and EPA is taking responsibility to ensure that it is cleaned up," said EPA Administrator Gina McCarthy.

**4 — EPA Chief Gina McCarthy 'Deeply Sorry' for Colorado Mine Spill, ABC News, 8/11/2015**

<http://abcnews.go.com/US/epa-chief-gina-mccarthy-deeply-colorado-mine-spill/story?id=33022515>

The head of the Environmental Protection Agency, Gina McCarthy, responded today to criticism that her agency moved too slowly in alerting the public about the 3 million gallons of mine waste that has contaminated a Colorado river, saying the lag time is mainly due to the cautious nature of the government's efforts. McCarthy said she is "deeply sorry" and it "pains me to no end" to see the orange-colored toxic stream unleashed in the West. Calling the spill a "tragic and unfortunate accident," she took full responsibility for the waste oozing from an abandoned mine into the Animas River.

**5 — EPA's McCarthy: Contaminated water from Colorado mine will spread, Fox News, 8/11/2015**

<http://www.foxnews.com/politics/2015/08/11/epa-mccarthy-contamination-from-colorado-mine-spill-will-spread-cause-still/>

EPA Administrator Gina McCarthy warned Tuesday that millions of gallons of contaminated water from a Colorado mine now surging along Colorado's Animas River could eventually impact Mexico, Utah and the Navajo nation.

**6 — Local anger swells at EPA over toxic gold mine spill in Animas River, Guardian, 8/11/2015**

<http://www.theguardian.com/environment/2015/aug/11/animas-river-spill-epa-anger>

Townpeople watching millions of gallons of orange-colored mine waste flow through their communities demanded clarity on Tuesday about possible long-term threats to their water

supply. Colorado and New Mexico made disaster declarations for stretches of the Animas and San Juan rivers and the Navajo Nation declared an emergency as the toxic waste spread downstream toward Lake Powell in Utah.

#### **7 – EPA head to visit Durango to observe river cleanup, 9News, 8/11/2015**

<http://www.9news.com/story/news/local/2015/08/11/mine-waste-leak-hickenlooper/31461929/>

The administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency will visit Durango Wednesday to observe the response efforts of crews working to cleanup last week's mine waste spill that turned the Animas River green, sparking an emergency declaration in two states. The EPA's Gina McCarthy will also visit Farmington, New Mexico, where she will meet with local officials and community members.

#### **8 EPA Chief Apologizes as Anger Mounts, Wall Street Journal, 8/11/2015**

<http://www.wsj.com/articles/epa-chief-apologizes-for-toxic-spill-affecting-rivers-in-colorado-new-mexico-1439321379>

Environmental Protection Agency Administrator Gina McCarthy apologized Tuesday for a mine spill in Colorado that her agency caused last week and planned to travel to the area Wednesday, amid increasing criticism from lawmakers about the EPA's response.

#### **9 — EPA chief: Colorado mine spill 'pains me', Albq Journal, 8/11/2015**

<http://www.abqjournal.com/626763/news/epa-chief-colorado-mine-spill-pains-me.html>

The head of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency said Tuesday her department takes full responsibility for spilling 3 million gallons of mining waste that turned a southwest Colorado river an unnatural shade of orange, adding it "pains me to no end." Gina McCarthy made the comments as her agency comes under increased scrutiny after federal and contract workers accidentally unleashed the spill last week while inspecting the abandoned Gold King mine near Silverton, Colorado.

#### **10 — Silverton residents reconsider need for Superfund in light of spill, Daily Times, 8/11/2015**

[http://www.daily-times.com/four\\_corners-news/ci\\_28625241/silverton-residents-reconsider-need-](http://www.daily-times.com/four_corners-news/ci_28625241/silverton-residents-reconsider-need-)

superfund-light-spill

Silverton Standard editor Mark Esper said he had just finished lunch on Aug. 5 when he heard an unusual call over the police scanner. "I hear Sheriff (Bruce) Conrad say on the scanner — '20-foot wall of orange sludge coming toward Silverton,'" Esper said.

#### **11 — Gold mine's toxic plume extends to Utah, USA Today, 8/11/2015**

<http://www.usatoday.com/story/news/nation/2015/08/10/navajo-nation-epa-mine-wastewater-spill/31399517/>

The plume of heavy metals released last week into the Animas River from the Gold King Mine near Silverton, Colo., reached Utah on Monday. As of Monday evening, officials said the plume of contamination was southeast of Montezuma Creek, Utah, and was headed for Lake Powell. Environmental Protection Agency officials say the pollutants in the plume include arsenic, lead, copper, aluminum and cadmium, but have not released any detailed information on the spill that started Wednesday morning and has since been contained.

#### **12 — Colorado health official: No river health risk, CNN, 8/11/2015**

<http://www.cnn.com/2015/08/10/us/epa-river-spill-residents/>

From his backyard in Durango, Colorado, Tom Bartles can see the Animas River, which was stained an unnatural orange. The Environmental Protection Agency accidentally released millions of gallons of pollutants into the water last week, turning the typically blue water to the color of mustard.